

## ***Flu Season is Here - What Your Organization Can Do to Stay Prepared!***

In 2012, Canadian workers took approximately 9.3 sick days per person per year, according to Statistics Canada. The high occurrence of sick days can in part be attributed to the flu. While the 2013 statistics are not yet available, there is no reason to believe that there will be a marked difference. In fact, it has been estimated that the flu costs the Canadian economy approximately one-half billion dollars annually!

Measures taken by employers to prevent the spread of the flu virus can help your workforce stay healthy and productive. These measures can also result in significant savings by minimizing the number of sick days taken by employees, thereby reducing the likelihood of an interruption of service to customers, reducing the spread of the flu, and thereby decreasing the costs associated with time away from work and health benefit plans.

For example, employers can help prevent the spread of the flu in the workplace by encouraging employees to get the flu shot. This can be done in a number of ways including encouraging employees to get vaccinated by providing the necessary time off work to visit a local doctor, nurse, or pharmacist to be immunized; by communicating internally the location of nearby flu clinics; or even by making flu shots available to employees by hosting a flu shot clinic in the workplace. All of these measures can increase the likelihood that employees will choose to be inoculated.

In addition to the business savings and enhanced productivity that these measures may have, they are also a signal to employees that the organization is concerned about the health and well-being of its employees.

For more information about the flu shot, or about how to host a flu clinic in your workplace, please visit Immunize Canada's website at: <http://immunize.ca/en/events/influenza-imm-campaign.aspx> or the Public Health Agency of Canada's website at: [http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/im/iif-vcg/fcyw\\_cvmt-eng.php](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/im/iif-vcg/fcyw_cvmt-eng.php)

Please contact e2r Solutions® if you would like to discuss how your organization can prepare for flu season.